Numerical weather prediction model

1992. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to buy a spanking new numerical weather prediction model from the National Centre for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), Boulder Colorado, US;

(b) if so, by when this new model is likely to be used for operational forecasting after its validation for Indian conditions; and

(c) the advantages of the new model?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) The National Centre for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) of the United States of America is going to provide its high resolution Weather Research and Forecasting (WRF) model as a part of its on going collaboration with the National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF), without any cost.

(b) Models developed for specific areas cannot be directly applied to another area and there is a need to carry out modifications in the model on the basis of elaborate tests caried out over out region. If the WRF of NCAR works to satisfaction, it will be operationalised. Initially the model will be used in a joint Indo-US demonstration. Project for track and intensity prediction of tropical cyclones in Bay of Bengal.

(c) It is the latest high resolution model which has enabled improved prediction over North Americas. We are yet to assess its suitability for our region.

Contracts of NHDP-II

1993. DR. VIJAY MALLYA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Highway Authority of India awarded thirteen contracts in April last for second phase of National Highway Development Programme; and

(b) if so, the financial allocation for each contract, the stretch of road to be constructed and the time allowed for completion?